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L7: Entry 19 of 29 File: USPT Sep 17, 1996

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5557732 A
TITLE: Method and apparatus for protecting software executing on a demonstration computer

Abstract Text (1):
Demonstration (demo) application software and various utility software programs are configured as a novel "protected demonstration environment" having layered security mechanisms for protecting the integrity of software executing on a computer. The security mechanisms include an underlying activity timer for ensuring that the demo program is periodically running in the absence of user input activity. When the demo program is not running, additional security mechanisms, such as message filters and icon disablers, are provided to reduce the vulnerability of the system. These security mechanisms cooperate to provide users access to certain innocuous features of the software through a graphical desktop interface on a computer screen, while preventing access to potentially destructive features.

Detailed Description Text (11):
Specifically, the underlying activity timer 302 is configured to ensure that one of the application programs, called the demonstration (demo) program 310, is periodically running in the absence of user input activity via the mouse 130 or keyboard 124 (FIG. 1). The demo program generally functions to exhibit features of the system; moreover, it is a reasonably secure application that is configured to obviate termination during execution. In other words, once the demo program is running, typical means for terminating the program, e.g., <CTL><ALT><DELETE>, are disabled. However, to ensure that a knowledgeable user of the system, such as a salesman, has an opportunity to exhibit other software features of the computer, there is a brief period of time during which the demo program is not executing. During this time, a utility program, together with a window manager program 316, present a desktop graphical display on the computer screen 320. In the illustrative embodiment of the invention, the utility program is preferably a Program Manager program 314 of the Windows.RTM. graphical user interface.

CLAIMS:

1. Apparatus for protecting the integrity of software executing on a computer having a processor for executing system software programs to generate a display on a computer screen and a memory, said computer operating in an environment in which users of various skill levels and motivations are operating said computer, said apparatus comprising:

a demonstration application program located in said memory and having a predetermined run length;

means for periodically operating said demonstration program to exhibit hardware and software features of said computer, said demonstration application program configured to prevent user termination of said demonstration program during execution;

a utility program cooperating with said system software programs to generate a graphical desktop display on said computer screen during a period of time when said

demonstration application program is not executing, said graphical desktop display allowing access to said system software programs through manipulation of said graphical desktop display;

means for preventing access to selected ones of said system software programs of said computer through manipulation of said graphical desktop display on said computer screen by said users; and

means for inhibiting user termination of said utility program.

11. A method for protecting the integrity of software executing on a computer operating in an environment in which users of various skill levels and motivations are operating said computer and having a processor for executing system software programs to portray a graphical desktop display on a computer screen that facilitates user input activity, said method comprising the steps of:

periodically executing a demonstration application program to exhibit hardware and software features of said computer, said demonstration application program configured to prevent user termination during execution;

operating a utility program to generate a visual display substantially the same as said graphical desktop display on said computer screen during a period of time when said demonstration application program is not executing;

drawing application windows with a window manger to display said visual display; and

preventing access to selected system software programs of said computer through manipulation of said graphical desktop display on said computer screen.

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L7: Entry 18 of 29 File: USPT Feb 25, 1997

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5606443 A
TITLE: Control circuit for entertainment system demonstration

Abstract Text (1):
A method and apparatus for controlling a demonstration of home entertainment audio and/or video equipment. Upon receipt of a start signal from a switch, control signals are transmitted via infrared transmitter to the equipment being demonstrated. The infrared signals are identical to those which would be sent from a remote control unit (or may be signals sent through hard-wired connections). The infrared signals turn on power to the equipment, properly configure the equipment, adjust volume level and other parameters, and program the equipment to present the demonstration.

Brief Summary Text (15):
The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for controlling a demonstration of home entertainment audio and/or video equipment. Upon receipt of a start signal from a switch, control signals are transmitted via infrared modulated transmitter and/or non-modulated hard wired control connections to the equipment being demonstrated. The infrared signals are identical to those which would be sent from a remote control unit. The infrared signals turn on power to the equipment, properly configure the equipment, adjust volume level and other parameters, and program the equipment to present the demonstration.

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L7: Entry 16 of 29 File: USPT Jul 11, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6086377 A
TITLE: System and method for product and service configuration

Brief Summary Text (14):
Another system consistent with this invention includes means for presenting one or more programmed demonstrations showing the context for features of the configurable element, means for presenting with the demonstrations one or more sets of selectable features of the configurable element, means for receiving selections of features in the sets from a user, and means for modifying the programmed demonstration to show the consequences of the received selections.

Brief Summary Text (15):
Another method consistent with this invention includes presenting one or more programmed demonstrations showing the context for features of the configurable element, presenting with the demonstrations one or more sets of selectable features of the configurable element, receiving selections of features in the sets from a user, and modifying the programmed demonstration to show the consequences of the received selections.

Brief Summary Text (16):
An article of manufacture consistent with this invention includes a first module for causing a system to present a programmed demonstration of a configurable element, a second module for causing the system to receive selections from a user indicating settings for features of the

Brief Summary Text (17):
configurable element, a third module for causing the system to modify the programmed demonstration according to the received selections, and a fourth module for causing the system to record the received selections.

Detailed Description Text (16):
FIG. 1 is a diagram of a system that can be used to carry out an implementation consistent with the present invention. Monitor 100 provides the principal display interface, and keyboard 101 and mouse 102 allow the user to provide inputs to a processing unit 103. Processing unit 103 includes a CPU 104 and memory 105 containing various programs and data, including program 107. Processing unit 103 can be connected to a network 106 of other computers, and information collected about products and services can be centrally stored. Program 107 runs the demonstration and collects the configuration data. In one embodiment, the present invention can be implemented in commercially available software such as Macromind Director running on a Macintosh or processing unit 103 can be contained within the product itself, thus obviating the need for a standalone computer.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of obtaining settings for a configurable element from an interactive demonstration of the configurable element, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting a programmed demonstration of the configurable element;

receiving selections from a user indicating settings for features of the configurable element;

modifying the programmed demonstration according to the received selections;

recording the received selections; and

configuring the configurable element according to the received selections.

15. A system for obtaining settings for a configurable element from an interactive demonstration of the configurable element comprising:

means for presenting a programmed demonstration of the configurable element;

means for receiving selections from a user indicating settings for features of the configurable element;

means for modifying the programmed demonstration according to the received selections;

means for recording the received selections; and

means for configuring the configurable element according to the received selections.

25. A method of obtaining settings for a configurable element from an interactive demonstration of the configurable element, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting one or more programmed demonstrations showing the context for features of the configurable element;

presenting with the demonstrations one or more sets of selectable features of the configurable element;

receiving selections of features in the sets from a user;

modifying the programmed demonstration to show the consequences of the received selections; and

configuring the configurable element with the received selections.

33. A system for obtaining settings for a configurable element from an interactive demonstration of the configurable element comprising:

means for presenting one or more programmed demonstrations showing the context for features of the configurable element;

means for presenting with the demonstrations one or more sets of selectable features of the configurable element;

means for receiving selections of features in the sets from a user;

means for modifying the programmed demonstration to show the consequences of the received selections; and

means for configuring the configurable element with the received selections.

41. An article of manufacture comprising:

a first module for causing a system to present a programmed demonstration of a

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L7: Entry 1 of 29 File: USPT Sep 14, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6792452 B1
TITLE: Method for configuring a piece of equipment with the use of an associated machine resolvable code

Detailed Description Text (123):
The automatic configuration process can also be applied to implementations based upon the purchase of a level of service. For example, it the user of the user PC 302 has prepaid for a first level of service in a service offering of five different levels of service (whether the user owns the PC 302, or rents/leases the PC 302), scanning of the MRC 1606 results in a cross-reference of the particular user ID in a database to retrieve the necessary software code and/or configuration data to configure the user PC 302 to the respective level of prepaid service. The database may be the VWS database 2506, or perhaps the enhanced VRS database 2502, disclosed in accordance with FIG. 32B. This implementation is beneficial where the user may want to install "demo" software on the user PC 302, but lacks sufficient technical knowledge to perform the installation. Scanning of the MRC 1606 related to the demo software initiates automatic download and configuration of the user PC 302 for a prescribed period of time, which is common with many of the existing demo software distributions. As a prelude to full functionality of the software from demo status to full operational status, the user can then pay the purchase price, which in turn triggers automatic configuration of the installed software for full functionality.

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L7: Entry 8 of 29 File: USPT Dec 16, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6665871 B1
TITLE: Download system for consumer electronic devices

CLAIMS:

1. A system for reprogramming a consumer electronic device comprising: a consumer electronic device (CED) having a CED processor and a CED memory and a CED serial port connected to the processor, the memory storing CED processor instructions and CED data; and a download module configured as a slave to the consumer electronic device and local to the consumer electronic device having a download processor, a download memory and a download serial port connected to the download processor, wherein the CED processor periodically applies a signal to the CED serial port, and when the download serial port is connected to the CED serial port to make a local serial connection and when the download processor receives one of the periodic signals from the CED processor over the local serial connection, the download processor initiates the download of one or more of download instructions and download data from the download memory to the CED memory over the local serial connection, and wherein the one or more of download instructions and download data comprises one or more of a demonstration program and a set of demonstration data that is used by the CED processor to generate a demonstration on the consumer electronic device.

5. A system for reprogramming a consumer electronic device comprising: a consumer electronic device (CED) having a CED processor and a CED memory and a CED serial port connected to the processor, the memory storing CED processor instructions and CED data; and a download module configured as a slave to the consumer electronic device and local to the consumer electronic device having a download processor, a download memory and a download serial port connected to the download processor, wherein the CED processor periodically applies a signal to the CED serial port, and when the download serial port is connected to the CED serial port to make a local serial connection and when the download processor receives one of the periodic signals from the CED processor over the local serial connection, the download processor initiates the download of one or more of download instructions and download data from the download memory to the CED memory over the local serial connection, and wherein the one or more of download instructions and download data comprises a demonstration interactive electronic program guide.

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L7: Entry 11 of 29 File: USPT Jan 14, 2003

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6507948 B1
TITLE: Method, system, and program for generating batch files

Detailed Description Text (25):
FIG. 3 illustrates logic implemented in the install program 17 to process a ScriptObject when the method so.install( ) is called on the ScriptObject during installation. As discussed, the so.uninstall method may be included in the install objects 330. The code to process the method so.uninstall ( ) may be part of the CPP 210 code, which includes code for performing operating system specific operations. The ScriptObject could include any of the properties and actions discussed above, and be called during installation. The methods included in the ScriptObject could be used to set environment variables, run a demonstration program after installation to provide a multi-media presentation explaining the installed product to the user, or configure some aspect of the system as part of the installation. For instance, the ScriptObject could generate a batch file that would execute to build a database table and populate the table for use by the installed program.

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L2: Entry 2 of 3 File: USPT Feb 14, 1995

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5388993 A
TITLE: Method of and system for demonstrating a computer program

Detailed Description Text (62):
The ease of use of the script language of the present invention allows tutorials to be developed late in the development cycle. When the application program to be demonstrated is substantially ready for release to the public, the information developer can create the demonstration while actually using the application program. The present invention provides a simple, editabler human readable script language for controlling the application. The demonstration program of the present invention is independent of the windowing system or programming language of the application program to be demonstrated. This allows ease of portability of tutorial to different windowing platforms.

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